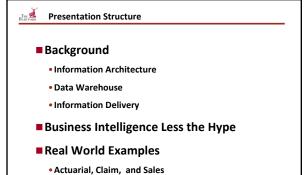


## **Business Intelligence – What Actuaries Need to Know**

Mark S. Allaben, FCAS, MAAA VP and Actuary Information Delivery Services CAS Annual Meeting November 7-10, 2010

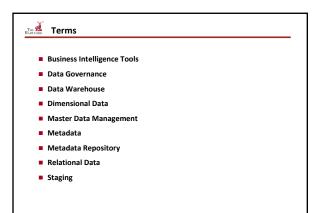


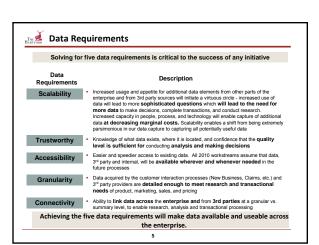
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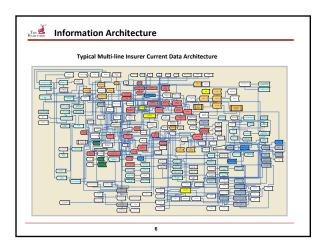
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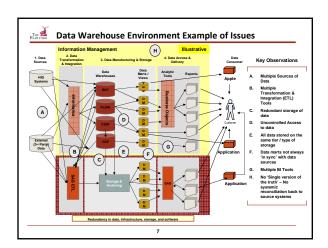
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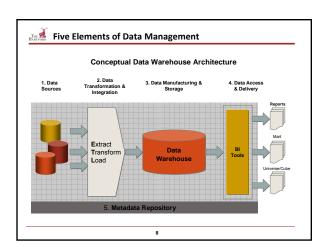
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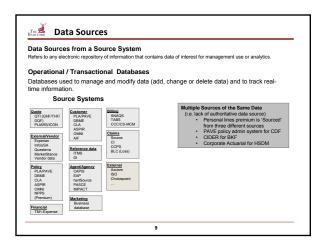


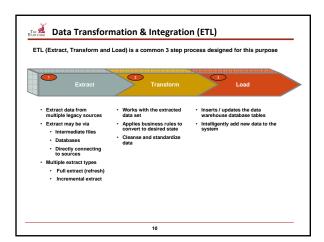


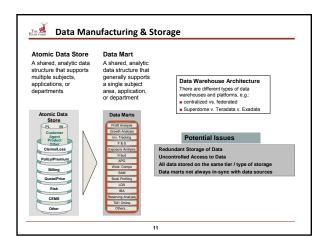


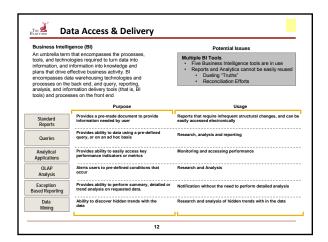














## ⊪™ Metadata

Metadata can provide a semantic layer between IT systems and business users—essentially translating the systems' technical terminology into business terms—making the system easier to use and understand, and helping users make sound business decisions based on the data (i.e. A Data Yellow Pages)

A metadata repository is: the logical place to uniformly retain and manage corporate knowledge (meta data) within or across different organizations in a company

- Various types of meta data include:

  Data Definitions

  Lator of common data elements and standard definitions

  Lator of common data elements and standard definitions

  Ruise define data use, manipulation, fransformation,
  calculation and summarization

  Business have are mainly implemented by the ETL and
  reporting tools in a medicate dictionary

  Data Standards

  Data Standards

  Use of and deportment of the data quality

  Data context

  Use of and deportment on the standard deportment of the standard deportment on the standard deportme

- Data context

   Use of and dependencies on data within business units and processes

   Technical Metadata
   Information on configuration and use of tools and programs

  Operational metadata

Information on change/update activity, archiving, backup, usage statistics

#### Potential Issues

- No Single Version of the Truth No systemic reconciliation back to source system Medadata is the crux of many of our data problems Time would note be wasted Less reconciliation Not gathering useless / redundant data Less storage



## Metadata - What is Metadata?

 $\underline{\text{Metadata is 'data about data'}}. \\ \text{It tells us the meaning and context of a piece of data.} \\$ 

- Who owns this data?
- Who's responsible for its quality?
  Who has access to it?
  What?
- What's the definition of this data element?
  What are the valid values?
  When? When was it last updated?
- Where is this data stored?
  Where does it originate from? Where is it used?
  Why?
- Why?

  Why is this piece of data important?

  How?

  How is it calculated?

  How is it manipulated?



#### Example of Metadata: What does "Total Earned" mean?

- What is the definition and who is accountable?
- How is "Total Earned" formulated?
- Where does this data originate from?
- What software, hardware, and databases are involved?

Often metadata is agreed-upon definitions and business rules stored in a <u>centralized repository</u> so that <u>common terminology</u> <u>for business terms</u> is used for all business users – event those across departments and systems. It can include information about data's ownership, source system, derivation (e.g. profite revenues minus costs), or usage rules. It prevents data misinterpretation and poor decision making due to sketchy understanding of the true meaning and use of corporate data.



# Metadata - What are the benefits of implementing a Metadata Strategy?

### Benefits

Common, embraced language between Business and IT

Substantial opportunity to improve data quality through greater understanding of HIG data Improved business intelligence Reduced redundancy

Consistency of data elements Reduced reconciliation efforts around data definition 
Improved efficiency of analysis

Alleviate loss of knowledge when staff transfers, retires or leaves the company Minimize the effort on learning new data sources

Economies of scale

Increased efficiencies via short data searches



Imagine sending all of your most experienced employees away for a month.

What would happen to your business? Where would your employees go to get answers? How long would it take and how many resources would have to be involved?

The costs would be mitigated if you had a centralized metadata repository.

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## Business Intelligence Less the Hype

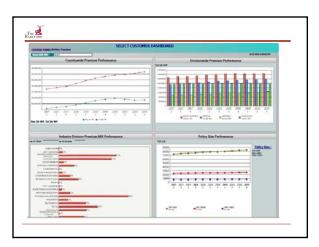
### Business Intelligence (BI)

An umbrella term that encompasses the processes, tools, and technologies required to turn data into information, and information into knowledge and plans that drive effective business activity. BI encompasses data warehousing technologies and processes on the back end, and query, reporting, analysis, and information delivery tools (that is, BI tools) and processes on the front end.

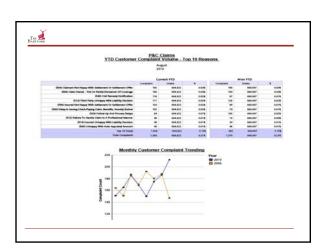
Translation: Business Intelligence turns data into information.



**Business Intelligence as Deployed** for the Actuarial Department -**BI Tool Microstrategy** 



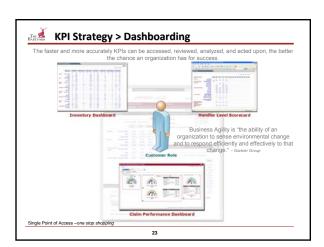


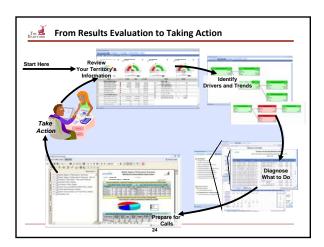


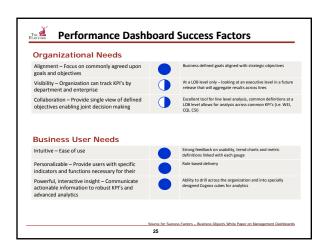


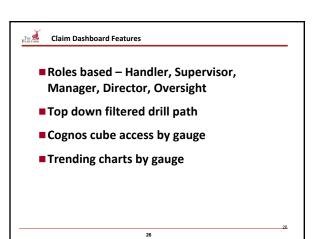


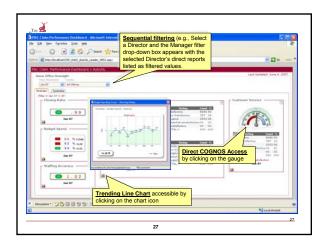
Business Intelligence as Deployed for the Claim Department -BI Tool Cognos



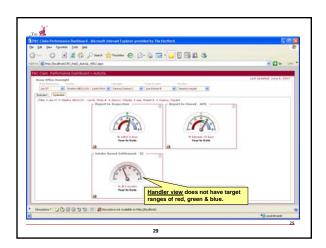


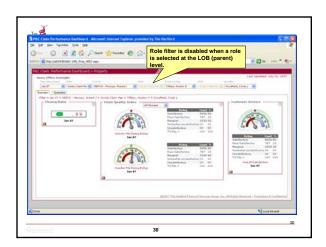






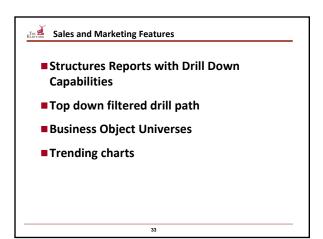




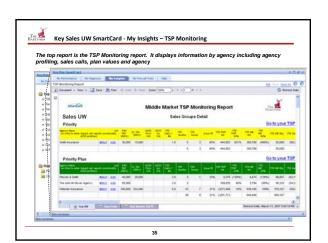


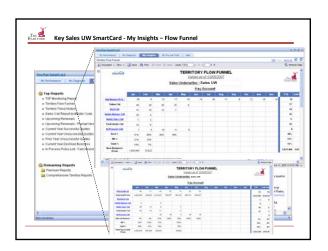


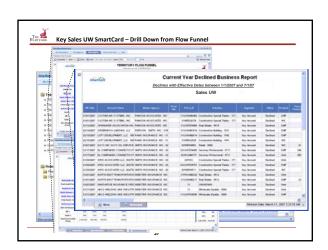




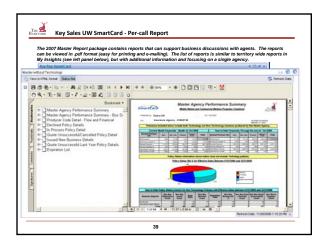


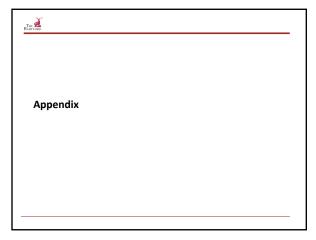














# Glossary: Common Data Warehousing Terms & Definitions

- 1. Data Sources
- Source System: Source System or Data Sources refers to any electronic repository of information that contains
  data of interest for management use or analytics
- 2. Data Transformation & Integration (ETL)
- ETL: The data transformation layer (aka Extract, transform, load ETL or some variant) is the subsystem concerned with extraction of data from the data sources (source systems), transformation from the source format and structure into the target (data wavehouse) format and structure, and loading into the data wavehouse 5. Metadata Management
- Metadata:
  - Metadata, or "data about data", is used not only to inform operators and users of the data warehouse about its status and the
    information held within the data warehouse, but also as a means of integration of incoming data and a tool to update and refine the
    underlying DW model.
  - Examples of data warehouse metadata include table and column names, their detailed descriptions, their connection to business meaningful names, the most recent data load date, the business meaning of a data item and the number of users that are logged in currently

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## Glossary: Common Data Warehousing Terms & Definitions

- 3. Data Manufacturing & Storage
- Data Warehouse: A shared, analytic data structure that supports multiple subjects, applications, or departments. There are
  three types of data warehouses: centralized, hub-and-spoke, and operational data stores
- Hub-and-Spoke Data Warehouse: A data warehouse that stages and prepares data for delivery to downstream (i.e., dependent) data marts. Most users query the dependent data marts, not the data warehouse
- Centralized Data Warehouse: A data warehouse residing within a single database, which users query directly
- Federated Marts or Environments: An architecture that leaves existing analytic structures in place, but links them to some degree using shared keys, shared columns, global metadata, distributed queries, or some other method
- Data Mart: A shared, analytic data structure that generally supports a single subject area, application, or department. A data mart is commonly a cluster of star schemas supporting a single subject area.
- Dependent Data Mart. A dependent data mart is a physical database (either on the same hardware as the data warehouse or on a separate hardware platform) that receives all its information from the data warehouse. The purpose of a Data Mart is to provide a subset of the data warehouse's data for an specific purpose or to a specific suppose or the organization. A data mart is exactly like a data werehouse technically, but it serves a different business purpose: It either holds information for only part of a company fucul as a division, or it holds a small selection of information for the entire company for support extra analysis without slowing down the main system). In either case, however, it is not the organization's official repositor, the way a data warehouse the support of the s
- View: Is a 'logical' provisioning of a subset of the data warehouse similar to a Data Mart
- Tiered Storage: Data is stored according to its intended use. For instance, data intended for restoration in the event of data loss or corruption is stored locally, for fast recovery. Data required to be kept for regulatory purposes is archived to lower cost disks
- Operational Data Store (ODS): A "data warehouse" with limited historical data (e.g. 30 to 60 days of information) that supports one or more operational applications with sub-second response time requirements. An ODS is also updated directly by operational applications.



## Glossary: Common Data Warehousing Terms & Definitions

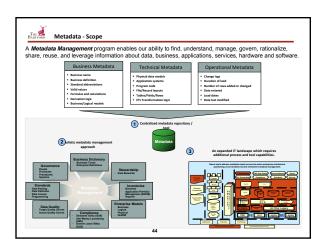
### 4. Data Access & Delivery

- Business Intelligence (BI): is an umbrella term that encompasses the processes, tools, and technologies required to turn data into information, and information into knowledge and plans that drive effective business activity. BI encompasses data warehousing technologies and processes on the back end, and query, reporting, analysis, and information delivery tools (that is, BI tools) and processes on the front end
- Business Intelligence Tools:
  - inters interruptive tools are a type of <u>application software</u> designed to help the <u>business intelligence</u> (8) <u>business processes</u>. Specifically they are generally tools that add in the analysis, and presentation of data. While some business intelligence tools include "If functionality, It tools are generally not considered business intelligence tools include "If functionality, It tools are generally not considered business intelligence tools."
- Reporting:
  - Reporting:

     The data in the data warehouse must be available to the organization's staff if the data warehouse is to be useful. There are a very large number of software applications stat perform this function, or reporting can be outsom developed. Examples of types of reporting tools include:

     Pages an advance and the second of the

- OLAP is an acronym for On Line Analytical Processing. It is an approach to quickly provide the answer to analytical queries that are dimensional in nature. It is part of the broader category <u>beames intelligence</u>, which also includes <u>Formet transform load (ETL)</u>, <u>relational reporting and data mining</u>. The typical applications of OLAP are in business processing for sea, purpleting, management reporting, <u>business process management</u> (BPMI), <u>budgeting</u> and forecasting, financial reporting and similar areas.
- Spreadmart: A spreadsheet or desktop database that functions as a personal or departmental data mart whose definitions and rules are not consistent with other analytic structures





## Metadata Implementation Program - The Five Deliverables

- Tool: Acquire a metadata tool that will meet our business and IT requirements for Metadata Management
- Governance: Implement the proper roles, responsibilities, policies, processes, procedures, and standards to most effectively manage our information assets
- 3. Organization: Consolidate various data management resources into a data asset management organization
- 4. Communication Plan: Establish an ongoing effort to educate and communicate to our employees all metadata strategy related
- 5. Roadmap/Implementation: Develop a preliminary roadmap with key implementation strategies for moving forward

